JAN 1974

2p

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

MINISTER: Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

The Manse
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.

Dear Friends,

In these days when the minds of many people are focussed often on the cost of living, the shopping clock that shows whether prices rise or fall is watched quite closely. Needless to say, in spite of all efforts, it still seems to go on rising.

Usually we think only of time when someone mentions "clock" to us but the shopping clock is interesting because it shows us that there are clocks that tell us something other than the time of day.

As I sit writing this, there is before me a centigrade thermometer in the shape of a clock. So heat and cold can be measured, not in quite the same way as time, but nevertheless to produce the same result and give a reading relevant to the circumstances. I expect you can think of many other things that have the same purpose, even though different in shape from a clock of the conventional kind.

On the level of the spiritual there is, of course, a clock that always tells the same time, and this, not because the clock is stopped, but because the time it tells is 'now'. As the Scripture says "Now is the time of Salvation". Many people have been glad to take the opportunity that this presents and have turned to Christ and dedicated their life to His service. Others have been glad of the spiritual 'now' because their life has become so bound up with worldly things that the world has overcome them. They have found release, fulfilment and peace in Christ.

Even for the really evil person, of whom there are a few about as we know only too well from reports that come in from various parts of the world, the spiritual 'now' is a line to life if they will but take it.

By the grace of God the spiritual 'now' is always with us. Many are completely unaware of its presence; some take it for granted. In the nature of things, however, there must come a time when the opportunity is no longer available. Usually this occurs when people are past making a response to it.

At this season of the year it is good to bear in mind the opportunity offered by the spiritual 'now'. God's prices do not rise, they are the same as ever, a humble and a contrite heart from those who would come to Him, for Christ has already paid the price for us.

As 1974 begins let us accept God's gracious gift of Himself in Christ and receive Him so that it can be a year when through Christ, God and ourselves may be brought really close together.

May the blessing of God be yours this New Year.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

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A special word of thanks from the Manse for the many Christmas greetings received.

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Deadline date for material for February Messenger

No later than 20th January.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK LESLIE MASON of 10 New Street, Milnrow, died on the 18th November, aged 62 years. Our sympathy is extended to all the relatives.

MARY ALICE MILNE SNOW of Oaklands, Milnrow, who was connected with St, Stephen's for a great number of years, departed this life on the 19th November 1973, aged 85. Although unable to attend for some time she was a firm supporter of the church. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Lord and the relatives.

JOHN PRINCE of 12 Major Street, Milnrow, passed away on the 22nd November, 1973 aged 76. We send our heartfelt condolences to the family.

EDWARD PRINCE of 29 Equitable Street, died on the 10th December 1973, aged 71. Mr. Prince was a member of St. Stephen's for many years. We send our sympathy to Mrs. Prince at this time of her loss.

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A FEW WORDS FROM BRIAN CLOUGH.....
and Connie...and Della... who wish to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts received on the occasion of the birth of Neil Rodney.

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS: See page 13

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GUEST NIGHT

Sunday evening at St. Stephen's on the 27th of this month will be Guest Night, when there will be special items during the service followed by a friendly hour in the schoolroom.
All are invited to bring a guest. A welcome if there for everyone....Your come!

THE WEAVERS

This life is a fabric and we are the weavers,
Watching each colour fall swiftly in place;
Though we use care, there will be, in the making
Weakness and flaws in the pattern we trace.

The many-hued threads must be carefully blended,
The gold and the silver, the blue and the grey;
Our lives are a mixture of sunshine and shadow;
The Master of weavers has planned it that way.

So what is the fruit of the fast-moving shuttles?
Is it shoddy or cheap or repulsive in form.
Has it been woven with love and compassion,
Does kindness and faith make it tenderly warm.

Will its strength allow it to weather the tempest.
Has it beauty enough for others to share?
Whatever the texture, the colour, the pattern,
The cloth that we weave is the cloth we must wear.

Reginald Vincent Holmes

"MORNING HAS BROKEN"
(film)
will be shown by

Mr. H.MELLOR

on
8th January, 1974

following the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Womens Guild

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

A United Service will be held at Ogden Baptist Church, Cedar Lane, Newhey, on:
Thursday, 24th January, at 7.30 pm.

THE CHRISTIAN'S TOP TEN

1. "O Come all Ye Faithfull"
   Every Sunday Morning

2. "Rise Up O Men of God"
   Morning Service is at 11.0'clock not five past.

3. "The Wise May Bring Thier Learning"
   Could you perhaps bring a friend?

4. "Behold us Lord a Little Space"
   Junior Church could use it.

5. "Thy Kingdom Come on Bended Knee"
   Anything Uri Geller can do, God can do better.

6. "Christian Seek Not Yet Repose"
   Stay awake until the sermon starts.

7. "Praise My Soul The King of Heaven; To His Feet Thy Tribute Bring"
   Mrs. Settle can tell you all about the Free Will Offering Scheme.

8. "Good Christian Men Rejoice, With Heart and Soul and Voice."
   Men! we need your voices in the choir.

9. "Hushed Was The Evening Hymn"
   What do you expect from 20 voices?

10. "Jesus Where 'ere Thy People Meet"
    Church Meetings are bi-monthly, on the last Wednesday in the month.

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(The basic idea for both Top Ten items came from Mrs. Gillon with a challenge to 'publish and be damned." The Editor, hoping that Salvation is by grace rather than works, has made the item more damnable).

THE DEVIL'S TOP TEN
(All rendered in a mincr key)

1. "Glorious things of Thee are Spoken, Zion City of our God." (Tune:"Deutchland Uber Alles")
   This should not be sung to either delegation at the Geneva Peach Talks.

2. "The Race That Long in Darkness Pined, Have Seen a Glorious Light"
   A Processional Hymn for Sheik Yamoney.

3. "Brightly Gleams Our Banner Pointing to The Sky"
   Recessional hymn for the Price Commissions

4. "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me"
   Traditional material not sung much in recent years but due for revival.
   Tune:"Ezra" disarranged by Gormley

5. "I bind unto Myself This Day the Strong Name of The Trinity"
   A three part tune played with gusto on the organ and disharmony by the mass choir.

6. "Ride on Ride on in Majesty"
   Not to be played allegro to the tune "Coupons" but may be taken as an irregular meter to the tune "Aslef."

7. "The Day Thou gavest Lord is Ended"
   To be sung at 10.30 pm.

8. "Dismiss Me Not Thy Service Lord"
   This could appear at No. 10 next week and could slip out of the hit parade altogether.

9. "Just As I Am Without One Plea"
   Sung by Harold and his angels.

10. "God Moves in a Mysterious Way His Wonders To Perform"
    Sung hopefully by Jeremy: Antiphon line for Enoch.

C.W.S. BAND PAYS DIVIDENDS - at Milnrow

In our last issue we implied that the Band Concert had been a social rather than a financial success, but now Mr. Busill has prepared a balance sheet which puts that comment into perspective.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Ticket Money	113.25	Band	85.00
Door Receipts	23.25	School	5.50
Programmes	9.65	Publicity	5.90
		Profit	49.75
	£146.15		£146.15

At the last Band Concert we made £89, but on that occasion the band cost £20 less and we raised £22 from the sale of advertising space in the programme. That explains most of the difference in the profit, but £50 is not to be sneezed at.

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GAMES AT THE GUILD

The Women's Guild held their annual party on 6th December when the programme was in the hands of Mesdames Gillon, Holden, Law and Lynch who endeavoured to provide nonsense of all kinds. Miss M. Wood won the Beetle Drive and Mrs. D. Emmott identified the greatest number of villains in the Rogues' Gallery. Five members of the choir then provided Christmas Music.

After a delicious supper of buttered buffet the evening ended with a mind reading act performed by er....errr...Mesdames Emmott and Gillon which puzzled all and sundry.

This was a most amusing evening for which we extend our thanks to the organising committee, and to those who helped in the kitchen. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Busill for his work in preparing the room for us.

CHRISTMAS IN SONG - in Littleborough

Our Carol Service on December 16th was very enjoyable and the good sized audience produced some hearty singing. Our Minister, Rev. A. Nash, conducted the service and Mr. L.W. Greaves was the organist.

The children of the Junior Church sang "I saw Three Ships" during which Wendy Law and Beverley Merrick sang a duet. Later Mark Grindrod and Elizabeth Merrick sang solos- verses of "As Joseph was a-walking." Lindsay Merrick accompanied at the organ for this part of the service.

CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

Numerous ladies attended the Women's Guild Christmas Party which was voted a huge success. For starters there was Spring (Spring ?) vegetable soup to warm us up, followed by dancing, passing the parcel and other diverse diversions. Then, to allow us us to get our breath back, there was a programme of entertainment provided by Mrs. Jowett, the Merrick Sisters and Wendy Law accompanied by Jacqueline Parr. This programme was then disturbed and the prospect of getting our breath back vanished with the appearance of two Anonimous Fairies who held the audience spell-bound and bamboozled to such an extent that the bewildered spectators implored them to do an etherial encore for the benefit of late comers - Rev. and Mrs.Nash.

(Clue? The fairies sang "Nobody loves a Fairy when she's forty")

With tummies rolling through one cause or another the party then proceeded to supper, and the evening ended with Mrs. Cockcroft on the piano and everyone in seasonal song.

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FAIR DINCUM

Detailed results from the Autumn Fair are now at hand:

Proceeds from Stalls	£
Young People (Includes £60 from cards, etc.	76.81
Drapery	73.05
Tea Room	47.12
Women's Guild Donation	40.00
Men	26.27
Refreshments	23.09
Busy Bees	11.98
Donations	14.00
Admission	3.97
	316.29
Less Church Expenses	3.74
	£312.55

£367 of Coupons were sold, of which £111 were sold by Mrs. Crossley and £106 by Mrs. Mellor. Mrs. Binns, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Moss, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Walls also made noble efforts in this direction.

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TA FOR TOYS

We would like to thank all the children who brought toys and the like to the Toy Service before Christmas. Mr. Vincent has found a welcome for your gifts in Heywood.

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ANOTHER CHANCE

Another day, another year,
Another chance to live,
According to the best you know
And happiness to give
To whom you meet along the road
By helping hand or smile
Making someone happy all the way
And all the while.

Patience Strong

COME AND GET IT.....COME AND GIVE IT

Offertory Envelopes for 1974 are now available. If anyone not already in the scheme wishes to join, please contact Mr. Nairn, Revd. A. Nash or any Elder of the Church who will be pleased to help and explain.

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SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

There is a vacancy on the flower rota for February 17th. If you would be willing to provide flowers for the Communion Table for that date, you are asked to have a word with either Mrs. Stott or Mrs. K. Hill.

POINT TO PONDER

"The man who sees badly always sees less than there is to see; the man who hears badly always hears something more than there is to hear."

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 6th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
13th	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
20th	Counc.J. Harrison	Cound. I.Royle
27th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
Feb. 3rd	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines

ELDERS ROTA EVENING WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS		ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Jan. 6th	Miss M. Wood	Mr. D. Logan
13th	Mr. K. Hoy	Mr. J. Emmott
20th	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mrs. C. Hoy
27th	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A. Clegg
Feb. 3rd	Mr. R. Gillon	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Jan. 6th	Mrs. N. Settle	Mr. B. Clough
Feb. 3rd	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 6th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
13th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
20th	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg
27th	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
Feb. 3rd	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Nov. 4th	3.65½	1.00	12.98½	17.64
11th	5.01½	1.80	14.65½	21.47
18th	4.26	1.40	14.15	19.81
25th	4.49	2.25	18.11	24.85
	£17.42	£6.45	£59.90	£83.77

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 6th	Mr. J. Lord	Mrs. Stott	
13th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. Ingham	10.30
	Mr. Nairn	Mr. Lord	6.00
20th	Mr. Nairn	Mrs. Crossley	
27th	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. J. Hill	
Feb. 3rd	Mrs. Stott	Mr. E. Holt	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Jan, 13th	Mr. Lord	Mr. Nairn	6.00
27th	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Ingham	10.30

COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 6th	J. Hobbs	J. Simpson
13th	D. Mallinson	S. Moss
20th	B. Leach	L. Butterworth
27th	J. Allison	A. Merrick
Feb. 3rd	B. Holt	J. Law

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Jan. 6th "Ring over all"
Psalm 95: 1 - 7 — Martin Law

13th "Only the forgiving understand forgiveness"
Matthew 6: 14 - 18 — H. Vincent

20th "Health and Wholeness"
Mark 1: 29-31; 40-45 — Carl Mallinson

27th "The Lord is God"
Psalm 100 — K. Hill

Feb. 3rd — P. Lightfoot

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

January

Wed.	2nd	1.30 pm.	Visit to Pantomime
Sun.	6th	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	" Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	7th	6.30 pm.	Pilots and each Monday
	8th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild
	9th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	13th	11.00 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
		6.00 pm.	Mr. C. Hilton
Wed.	16th	7.30 pm.	Elders & Church Visitors Meeting
Sun.	20th	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	"
Sun.	27th	11.00 am.	Mr. J. Collinge
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.-Guest Night
Wed.	30th	8.00 pm.	Annual Church Meeting

February

Sun.	3rd	11.00 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	" Service of Word & Sacrament.

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Jan.	6th	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mrs. D. Howarth Mrs. A. Wood
	13th	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Cudworth
	20th	Mrs. Lucas	
	27th	Mrs. G. Whittaker	Miss M. Wood Mrs. D. Butterworth
Feb.	3rd	Mrs. F. Holland	Mrs. E. Prince

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World Mission Boxes £18.70 (6 months ending December)
Christmas Post £ 8.70 (Thanks to all 'Postmen')

Christmas Afayre Profit £212.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

January		
Tues. 1st		Visit to Pantomime
Wed. 2nd	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Fri. 4th	7.30 pm.	Film "Christ in Jesus"
Sun. 6th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues. 8th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild
Wed. 9th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thurs10th	7.45 pm.	Men's "Christmas" Supper
Sun. 13th	10.30 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
	6.00 pm.	" (Communion)
Wed. 16th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 20th	10.30 am.	Mr. A. Cooper
Wed. 23rd	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur. 24th		Men's Fellowship: Dr. Letch - Film Show
Sun. 27th	10.30 am.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash (Communion)
Tues. 29th	7.30 pm.	Annual Church Meeting
Wed. 30th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
February		
Sun. 3rd	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues. 5th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild
Fri. 8th	7.30 pm.	Film "Making a Difference"

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

January 6th	Mrs. Hill
13th	Mrs. Binns
20th	Mrs. Arthur
27th	Mrs. F. Ingham
February 4th	Mrs. White

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
Nov. 18th	£3. 0½	£ 5.81½
25th	£3.01½	£12.29½
Dec. 2nd	£2.00½	£ 6.32½
9th	£2.88	£11.04

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

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MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
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Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory

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